REMARKS

Claim 16 has been amended. Support for the amendment to claim 16 can be found in the second paragraph on page 8 of the specification.

Claims 20-22 have been added. Support for new claims 20-22 can be found in the third to last line on page 11 of the specification to the line 2 on page 12 of the specification.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 2-10 and 13-22 will be pending in the application.

Claims 5-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement.

The Examiner asserts that the specification discloses that the conductive layer contains any one of a conductive polymer, a conductive metal oxide, or carbon black, but does not support a conductive layer containing a conductive polymer and either a metal oxide or carbon black.

Applicants have added new claim 18 which recites, "wherein a conductive layer containing a conductive metal oxide or carbon black...." Support for this recitation in claim 18 can be found on page 6, lines 3-5, which discloses that the conductive layer contains a conductive polymer, a conductive metal oxide, or carbon black. Applicants have amended claim 5 to depend from claim 18.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of Applicants' claims are fully described in Applicants' disclosure and it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, 1st paragraph, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 2-10 and 13-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite.

The Examiner asserts that the word "type" in the phrase "CuAu type or Cu_3Au type ferromagnetic ordered phase" is indefinite.

In claim 16, Applicants have inserted a hyphen between CuAu and the word "type" and between Cu_3Au and the word "type." Applicants submit that the expression "CuAu-type or Cu_3Au-type ferromagnetic ordered phase" is well known in the art and can be found, for example, in J. Appl. Phys., 93(1), 453-457 (2003) and Jpn. J. Appl. Phys., 39, part 2, No. 11B, L1121-1123 (2000). A copy of each reference is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims are clear and definite and respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claims 2-4 and 13-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Miyake et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,079,096 ("Miyake"), in view of Kikitsu et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,602,620 ("Kikitsu").

As a preliminary matter, on page of the Office Action, the Examiner has interpreted "edge" in claim 4 to mean "any terminating portion of the substrate." Therefore, the Examiner interprets that the conductive polymer layer in claim 4 can be disposed on the front (or back) surface because the Examiner considers the front and back surfaces as terminating surfaces.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's interpretation of the term "edge." The Examiner is misinterpreting the plain and ordinary meaning of the term "edge." Applicants submit that, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the definition of "edge" (or end surface) does

not mean the surface between the substrate and the magnetic layer or the surface that is on the opposite side of the substrate from the magnetic layer.

Turning to the merits of the rejection, Miyake discloses a primer coating containing a conducting polymer. Miyake is mainly directed to the use of polyaniline in a non-magnetic layer. Neither Miyake nor Kikitsu disclose the specific conductive polymers "polyvinylbenzene sulfonate, polyvinyl benzyl trimethyl ammonium chloride, or a quaternary salt polymer" recited in Applicants' claim 16. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 16 and the claims depending therefrom are novel and non-obvious over the combination of Miyake and Kikitsu.

Additionally, claim 18 is directed to the use of a conductive metal oxide or carbon black in the conductive layer. Applicants submit that Miyake does not disclose a primer coating containing a metal oxide or carbon black. Further, as previously argued in response to the Final Office Action, Applicants reiterate that the organic support in Saitoh cannot tolerate the high temperature required for the formation of CuAu-type or Cu_3Au-type ferromagnetic ordered phase. The organic support used in Saitoh (for example, PET used in Example 1 of Saitoh) cannot be used for the production of the magnetic recording medium of the invention. Even if the organic support contains an inorganic substance, it is clear that the organic support is unacceptable if the organic component becomes fluid. Since the melting point of PET is below 300°C, the support used in Saitoh is unusable as a support for CuAu-type or Cu_3Au-type ferromagnetic ordered phase. Saitoh also fails to teach or disclose the specific metal oxides in Applicants' claim 6.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 18 and the claims depending therefrom are novel and non-obvious over the combination of Miyake and Kikitsu and over the combination of Saitoh and Murray, which were previously cited by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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